

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SAJ-01 SAM-01 IO-11 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 DHA-02 SCCT-01

/088 W

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R 081906Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7976

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMCONSUL MONTREAL

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL TORONTO

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

USMISSION USBERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 06012

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CVIS, PFOR,PINT, PO, GW

SUBJECT: FRG MEDIA ALLEGATIONS OF ALLEGED SPINOLA
COUP PLANS

REF: STATE 84094 (NOTAL)

BEGIN SUMMARY: APRIL 8 ISSUE OF POPULAR FRG WEEKLY
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"STERN" CONTAINS ARTICLE BY UNDERCOVER LEFTIST JOURNA-

LIST HANS-GUENTER WALLRAFF DOCUMENTING INVOLVEMENT OF GENERAL SPINOLA IN EFFORT TO OBTAIN RIGHT-WING FRG SUPPORT FOR A MAY-JUNE COUP ATTEMPT IN PORTUGAL. WALLRAFF ARTICLE ALSO ATTEMPTS TO CONNECT RIGHT EXTREMIST TERROR ORGANIZATION PORTUGUESE DEMOCRATIC LIBERATION MOVEMENT (MDLF) WITH THE CDS LEADERSHIP. IN APRIL 7 PRESS CONFERENCE WALLRAFF CLAIMED THAT CSU LEADER STRAUSS HAD CONTACT WITH SPINOLA EARLIER IN THE YEAR CONCERNING, INTER ALIA, POSSIBLE REFUGE IN BAVARIA SHOULD THE PORTUGUESE EXILE BE EXPELLED FROM SWITZERLAND. THE WHOLE QUESTION IS NOW DUE TO BE DISCUSSED IN THE BUNDESTAG AFTER EASTER. END OF SUMMARY.

1. IN THE LARGEST SIZED MAGAZINE IN ITS HISTORY (DUE TO A SPECIAL U.S. BICENTENNIAL SUPPLEMENT), THE MASS CIRCULATION NEWS MAGAZINE "STERN" THIS WEEK CONTAINS A SPECIAL ARTICLE WRITTEN BY POPULAR LEFTIST UNDERCOVER JOURNALIST HANS-GUENTER WALLRAFF ON MDLF ACTIVITY IN PORTUGAL AND HIS SUCCESSFUL LURE OF GENERAL SPINOLA FROM SWITZERLAND TO DUSSELDORF MARCH 25 WITH A BAIT OF MONEY AND ARMS FROM RIGHT-WING FRG CIRCLES FOR AN ANTI-LEFTIST PORTUGUESE COUP IN THE LATE SPRING.

2. ACCORDING TO THE "STERN" ARTICLE, DURING THE PAST YEAR WALLRAFF SPENT SEVERAL MONTHS IN PORTUGAL, AND SUCCEEDED IN ESTABLISHING CONTACT WITH MDLF FORCES IN NORTHERN PORTUGAL UNDER THE GUISE THAT HE REPRESENTED RIGHT-WING FRG ELEMENTS ANXIOUS TO CRUSH COMMUNIST ACTIVITY IN THAT COUNTRY. THE ARTICLE MENTIONS AND INCLUDES PHOTOGRAPHS OF SEVERAL LEADING PORTUGUESE FIGURES WHO IT ALLEGES SUPPORT MDLF TERRORIST ACTIVITY, INCLUDING GALVAO DE MELO, RAMALHO EANES, "COMANDOS" LEADER JAIME NEVES, FORMER MOZAMBIQUE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF KAULZA DE ARRIAGA, MORAIS DA SILVA, AND TEXEIRA DE MELO, AIDE TO THE ARCHBISHOP OF BRAGA. IT ALSO SUGGESTS THAT CDS CHAIRMAN FREITAS DO AMARAL SUPPORTS MDLF ACTIVITY. THE ARTICLE ALSO INCLUDES A MAP MARKING THE SCENE OF ANTI-COMMUNIST ATTACKS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, AND ANOTHER MARKING THE LOCATION OF SUSPECTED COMMUNIST ARSENALS.

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3. BY WORKING HIS WAY UP THE MDLF HIERARCHY, WALLRAFF CLAIMS ULTIMATELY TO HAVE ESTABLISHED CONTACT WITH AIDES TO THE EXILED SPINOLA, RECOGNIZED BY THE MDLF AS THEIR IDEAL NATIONAL LEADER. WALLRAFF THEN LURED SPINOLA INTO A TRAP RENDEZVOUS IN DUSSELDORF ON MARCH 25, AT WHICH TIME PHOTOGRAPHS WERE TAKEN AND TAPES MADE, WHICH IMPLICATED SPINOLA IN AN EFFORT TO OBTAIN WEAPONS AND

MONEY FROM FRG SOURCES TO BE USED IN A POST-ELECTION
COUP.

4. IN AN APRIL 7 PRESS CONFERENCE WHICH PREVIEWED THE
"STERN" ARTICLE AND WHICH HAS BEEN PICKED UP BY SEVERAL
NATIONAL DAILIES, WALLRAFF OUTLINED HIS STORY, PLAYED
PART OF THE TAPE, INTRODUCED OTHER WITNESSES, AND NOTED
THE ADDITIONAL POINT THAT SPINOLA AIDE LUIS OLIVEIRA
DIAS HAD INFORMED HIM OF RECENT CONTACT BETWEEN CSU
CHAIRMAN STRAUSS AND SPINOLA CONCERNING THE POSSIBILITY
THAT SPINOLA BE ACCORDED ASYLUM IN BAVARIA, IF NECESSARY.

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5. SUBSEQUENTLY, STRAUSS ASSISTANT FRIEDRICH VOSS CONFIRMED THAT STRAUSS AND SPINOLA HAD MET ON ONE OCCASION EARLIER THIS YEAR, BUT THAT STRAUSS HAS SINCE CUT CONTACT WITH SPINOLA SINCE THE LATTER NO LONGER IS OF ANY IMPORTANCE IN THE FURTHER DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENT OF
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PORTUGAL BUT IS ACTUALLY AN OBSTACLE. VOSS ALSO CONFIRMED THAT DIAS HAD PASSED TO HIM SEPARATELY A "STRATEGY PAPER" ANALYZING THE CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION IN PORTUGAL. HE DENIED HOWEVER THAT SPINOLA HAD BEEN GIVEN ANY PROMISE OF ASYLUM IN BAVARIA.

6. SPD BUNDESTAG DEPUTY KARL-HEINZ HANSEN HAS REQUESTED THAT THIS WHOLE MATTER BE DISCUSSED IN THE BUNDESTAG, AND RAISED THE POSSIBILITY THAT SPINOLA WILL BE DENIED FURTHER ENTRY INTO THE FRG. THE SUBJECT WILL PROBABLY BE SCHEDULED SHORTLY AFTER THE EASTER RECESS.

7. COMMENT: WALLRAFF HAS BEEN AT THIS SORT OF GAME FOR SEVERAL YEARS NOW, AND HE IS GOOD. "STERN" CLAIMS IT CHECKED AS BEST IT COULD INTO HIS STORY, AND THAT THE BASIC FACTS ARE ACCURATE. WE ALSO TEND TO BELIEVE HIM, ALTHOUGH HE LEFT OUT MUCH OF WHAT STORY IT WAS THAT HE HIMSELF USED TO GAIN THE TRUST OF THE MDLF AND SPINOLA. ONE CAN SURMISE THAT HE MAY HAVE USED THE NAMES OF RIGHT-WING FRG POLITICAL FIGURES (FOR EXAMPLE, STRAUSS) AND INTELLIGENCE ORGANIZATIONS. THE ALLEGATIONS HE PASSES ON ABOUT SUPPORT FOR MDLF EFFORTS BY RIGHT-OF-CENTER AND CDS LEADERS ARE NOT CLEARLY DOCUMENTED, BUT ARE NONETHELESS DAMNING. AND, MOST CERTAINLY THE PATHETIC ROLE THAT PROVOCATEUR WALLRAFF GIVES SPINOLA IN THIS BIZARRE STORY WOULD APPEAR TO DOOM ANY HOPE THE FORMER PORTUGUESE PRESIDENT MIGHT HAVE HAD TO GARNER ANY FRG SUPPORT FOR A RETURN TO POWER.
HILLENBRAND

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, POLITICAL LEADERS, EXTREMISTS, ALLEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BONN06012
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760133-0750
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760485/aaaactyg.tel
Line Count: 217
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 84094
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: saccheem
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <17 AUG 2004 by saccheem>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRG MEDIA ALLEGATIONS OF ALLEGED SPINOLA COUP PLANS
TAGS: CVIS, PFOR, PINT, PO, GE, MDLF, (DE SPINOLA, ANTONIO SEBASTIAO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006